

**SUMMARY OF DOE PUBLIC WORKSHOP
SILO 3 PATH FORWARD
JULY 29, 1997**

Background

On Tuesday, July 29, 1997 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) held a public workshop from 7-9 p.m. at the Alpha Building (Classroom D). This workshop was the third in a series of public workshops held this summer to discuss the remediation of Silo 3 at the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP).

The focus of the workshop was to present the fundamental principles and DOE's proposal concerning the proposed remediation alternatives being considered for the remediation of Silo 3. DOE wanted to obtain feedback and identify additional information needs from stakeholders prior to finalizing its formal proposal for the remediation of Silo 3.

Attendance at Workshop

Approximately 50 people attended the workshop including representatives from the following affiliations:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
- DOE-Fernald
- Fluor Daniel Fernald
- Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (formerly known as the Citizens Task Force)
- Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety & Health (FRESH)
- Parsons representatives
- PRC
- Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation
- Perma Fix
- Local Fernald residents
- Karcher-RGF-J. Page
- Envirocare
- Hanford Education Action League

Presentations

The workshop opened with brief remarks from Gary Stegner, DOE-Fernald Public Affairs Director. Stegner presented the meeting agenda and explained the purpose of the meeting. Stegner strongly encouraged stakeholder feedback concerning DOE's proposal for the Silo 3 path forward.

During the next part of the meeting, Terry Hagen, Fluor Daniel Fernald's Director of Strategic Planning, presented the current plan for the remediation of Silo 3 to be included in the Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD). Hagen reminded stakeholders that the regulators, DOE, and Fluor Daniel Fernald agree vitrification is not the best alternative for remediating Silo 3. There are uncertainties associated with implementing vitrification due to the high sulfate contents and the high cost compared to the other viable alternatives.

Hagen then presented an evaluation comparing the other viable stabilization/solidification alternatives including cement (chemical) stabilization, polymer (micro) encapsulation, and sulfur/polymer encapsulation. These comparisons were based on the following criteria:

- Threshold Criteria (Protectiveness of Human Health and the Environment and Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARAR's);
- Long Term Effectiveness;
- Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment;
- Implementability;
- Short-Term Effectiveness; and
- Cost

Hagen then explained the next step is to move forward with preparing the Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) document which would allow use of the cement (chemical) stabilization and polymer based encapsulation alternatives. Hagen noted that DOE owes U.S. EPA the Draft ESD by Sept. 15. After review and concurrence by U.S. EPA, the document will then be made available for public review and comment, a public meeting will be held, and DOE will respond in writing to all public comments via a responsiveness summary to be included in the Final ESD document. This process is similar to that used during the Proposed Plan/ROD development Phase of the Fernald cleanup.

Next, Jim Saric, U.S. EPA, presented information about the conclusion of the Silos Project dispute resolution process. Saric explained that an agreement between U.S. EPA and DOE was reached on July 22, 1997. Saric also mentioned that U.S. EPA has prepared a fact sheet with the dispute resolution details that was mailed to key stakeholders. U.S. EPA will hold a public comment period on the dispute resolution from Aug. 4 - Sept. 3. A public meeting will be held at the Alpha Building (Classroom D) beginning at 6:00 p.m. on August 26 to discuss the details of the agreement. Saric encouraged all stakeholders to attend and provide written or verbal formal comments about the dispute process and the agreement between U.S. EPA and DOE.

Stakeholder Feedback

Stakeholders asked questions and/or voiced concerns about the following topics/issues:

- Volume increase comparisons associated with each viable alternative
- Implementability of the various alternatives -- some stakeholders made remarks that they do not agree that cement stabilization is the least complex alternative
- Long-term stabilization associated with each alternative
- Terminology being used (i.e. Cement Stabilization versus Chemical Stabilization)
- Quality control
- Comparisons between on-site versus off-site treatment of Silo 3 waste
- Regulatory process -- Why it is necessary to do an amendment to the Operable Unit 4 Record of Decision if off-site treatment of Silo 3 waste is chosen to be the best alternative based on cost and schedule
- Questions about status of Request for Proposal -- when it will be available for public (Don Paine explained that the Draft RFP is almost finished and is expected to be distributed to stakeholders the first week in August.
- Transportation issues

- DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald are putting too much emphasis on cement stabilization -- stakeholders want more information about input received from vendors about the other viable alternatives.
- Stakeholders do not want to "be locked in" to making a decision right now and not be able to change the ESD or RFP documents if better information from vendors becomes available.

Action Items:

- Request for DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald to validate 20% volume increase associated with cement stabilization.
- Request for good numbers regarding comparison of on-site versus off-site treatment of Silo 3 waste as well as the volume increase associated with each alternative.
- Stakeholders requested a copy of the draft RFP the minute it is finished.
- Stakeholders requested DOE hold a public workshop (similar to those DOE has held this summer) after the draft RFP is available for public comment/review.

Next Step

DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald will continue to move forward with development of the draft ESD and draft RFP. Feedback received from stakeholders at this meeting will be reflected in the documents. In the meantime, U.S. EPA will hold a public comment period on the dispute resolution from Aug. 4 - Sept. 3. A public meeting will be held at the Alpha Building (Classroom D) beginning at 6:00 p.m. on August 26 to discuss the details of the agreement.

A transcript, presentation handouts, and evaluation forms from the July 29 Silos Project public workshop will be available within the next two weeks at DOE's Public Environmental Information Center (PEIC) located at 10995 Hamilton Cleves Highway; (513)648-7480.

